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Report on the 1938 Outing

IN SPEAKING of the 1932 outing William E. Colby said, "One of the encouraging features of the Sierra Club outings is the fact that each year the members who participate announce on their return that that particular outing was the 'best ever.' The recent outing has been no exception." As usual, the 1938 outing was "no exception"; it was, in fact, one of the most spectacular of recent years. Due to the winter's snowfall, the heaviest in 51 years, the members of this outing experienced the unusual effect of traversing winter scenes under a summer sky. To add to the beauty there were tall clouds over the Minarets and other high peaks every day for 21 days, with not a drop of rain falling. In the fourth week we had a series of afternoon showers arranged by the management to "lay the dust." None lasted more than an hour except the final one, which got out of control and poured in sheets from one end of the Sierra to the other.

We found Thousand Island, Ediza, and Garnet lakes frozen and the proposed campsites under eight to ten feet of continuous snowfields. Skiing would have been excellent, with four-mile runs and descents of 3000 feet possible in many places. Oliver Kehrlein and Jack Riegelhuth, on a special reconnaissance on June 20 to determine the condition of Tioga Pass, had been enveloped in a raging

blizzard which laid twelve inches of new snow on top of the five-foot pack existing on the pass at that time.

Such exceptional conditions necessitated many changes in plans and itinerary. With Tioga Pass closed, Roy Boothe, Supervisor of Inyo National Forest, promised that he would do his best to have the Minaret Summit road open to Agnew Meadow. Just three hours before our arrival the last blast of dynamite had opened a route across the fine ski slopes on Mammoth Mountain. Through hard-packed snow higher than the car and touching both fenders we made the traverse of "Agony Road," a mountaineering feat that was a real thrill to all who came. With heavy banks of snow common even as low as our first campsite at 8400 feet in Agnew Meadow, it was clear that further drastic changes in itinerary would be necessary. However, these same snowfields gave exceptional beauty to the whole countryside and permitted extraordinary campsites that may not be possible again for many years to come. One such campsite was at an altitude of 9800 feet on some fine timbered benches on the slopes of San Joaquin Mountain. Separate sources of water supply for men, women, and commissary sprang from large banks of snow. A short while later, with the snow and water gone, these beautiful flower-covered benches would have been dry

and hot. This year we were able to camp there for two days and nights with the full extent of the Ritter Range spread out before us. The rosy flush of dawn on the glaciers and summits of Ritter and Banner was a beautiful sight and was fortunately preserved in Kodachrome movies so that other members of the Club may also be able to enjoy the unusual beauty of this year's trip.

Mountaineering was also somewhat remarkable in the tireless efforts of the climbers to cooperate with the Committee on Mountain Records and Place Names in finding out what was really on top of the various "unclimbed" peaks. Many of the peaks climbed were found to have no record of previous ascent. In the Minarets, "Riegelhuth," "Pridham" and "Turner" were added to the roll call, but two very sharp spires were left unclimbed, their difficulty ranking them between fourth and sixth class climbs.

The theme song of the second two weeks was "Just one more river to cross." Packers,

rangers and all experienced in the mountains agreed that the streams were about three times normal volume for the season. Every little creek was bank full. This necessitated an "engineering crew" each moving day, to fell trees and build bridges so that the members of the party could cross the streams. As could be expected, the passes were heavily snow laden and the crossings of Silver and Selden passes were achievements worthy of the pioneer outings. The mountaineering skill of Allie Robinson and his packers brought the commissary and dunnage through on time every day—a splendid accomplishment under difficult conditions.

The trip offered an excellent opportunity for real Sierra Club cooperation in overcoming problems of a pioneering nature in a wilderness country. The members of the party are to be congratulated on the part they took in making the 1938 outing most successful.

RICHARD M. LEONARD

Annual Photograph Exhibit

The annual photograph exhibit will be held as follows:

October 3 to 10 at the Club headquarters, 1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street, *San Francisco*. In addition to the regular hours, the Club rooms will be open from 2 to 6 o'clock, Saturday afternoon, October 8.

October 14 to 21 at the headquarters of the Southern California Chapter, Room 315, 751 South Figueroa Street, *Los Angeles*.

October 25 to 31 under the auspices of the Riverside Chapter, *Riverside*.

November 3 to 4 under the auspices of the Loma Prieta Chapter, at *Palo Alto*.

It is hoped that all who took photographs on the 1938 Sierra Club outing will exhibit their albums, for in each collection there are

sure to be pictures of special interest not to be found elsewhere. Members of the Club who took photographs this summer on other trips in the Sierra or in other mountain regions are also invited to send in their albums.

It has long been the custom for exhibitors to permit members of the Club to obtain pictures at a slight margin above cost. For this purpose it is requested that each photograph be numbered and that the price be stated. Orders will be placed through the Club office and will be forwarded after the close of the exhibit.

Photographs taken by Cedric Wright during the Sierra Club outing are now on exhibit at the Club rooms in San Francisco and will remain until October 10.

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Plans for the 1939 Outing

With four-fifths of the Outing Committee present on the 1938 trip, we were able to make quite definite plans for next year. We will go over Piute Pass, through Hutchinson Meadow to a fine four-day camp at Colby Meadow, with all of the Evolution group and the Mount Goddard country to explore. Then over Muir Pass to a fine campsite at Palisade Creek on the Middle Fork of the Kings River. There the Devils Crag and the Palisades will engage climbers and artists, while fishermen, bathers, and washers may enjoy the full power of the Kings.

The first two-weekers will return to their cars over Bishop Pass. The second party will join the group at Palisade Creek in an easy two-day trip from South Lake. Then over new trails and new country, up the new Mather Pass trail and over into the wild

beauty of the upper basin of the South Fork of Kings River. After a few days at Bench Lake the party will travel through alpine meadows and over Pinchot Pass to Woods Lake. A last two days in the mountains, and we then pick up our "shuttled" cars at the foot of Sawmill Pass.

With the great interest taken by the Sierra Club and its members in the proposed Kings Canyon National Park, this is a real opportunity to become better acquainted with some of the finest portions of the High Sierra region to be included within its boundaries. From the standpoint of scenic values and mountaineering the three 12,000-foot passes and four 14,000-foot peaks promise sharp contrasts and magnificent mountains.

OUTING COMMITTEE

The Sierra Club Burro Trips

The burro trips are conducted with the definite purpose of teaching party members how to plan, conduct, and enjoy inexpensive mountain trips for small parties. The trips were a great success this summer and should be even better next year. Some members learned more than others, but all are better campers for having made the trip.

Because a mountaineer must be able to shift for himself, independent of professional cooks, packers, guides, and governesses, we learned to cook with reflector ovens and aluminum grates instead of can openers and double boilers. We know when a squaw hitch is better than a diamond hitch. We know how to get a burro out of the mud, how to read our "topog" maps, how to build fires in the rain and when a sheet bend is better than a square knot. Because a mountaineer can plan his own trip, we learned how much men and mules can carry, how much animal rental is, why a

horse is taken with a string of mules, how far a donkey will go in a day, and what kind of grass he likes. We considered grub lists and equipment lists for different sorts of trips. Because a true mountaineer is prepared for emergencies, we learned how to check bleeding, and apply butterfly-bandage stitches. Artificial respiration, traction splints, and snake bite treatment were demonstrated. Those who wish to master these tricks are practicing them at home. Because a mountaineer wants to get as much as possible out of his vacations, we learned to enjoy the mountains more by knowing them better. Any burro tripper can tell you (ask one!) why summer snow banks are often pink, why rattlesnake eggs are never found, what wolverines eat, what a fire-type pine is, how bats locate insects in the dark, what minerals are in granite, and where the last mountain goats are found.

Both parties were excellent! Everyone was

cheerful, willing to work, and anxious to learn. Snow and rain prevented the first party from covering much country, but that did not dampen anyone's spirits. We played "duck under a rock" (a new game), ate, and sang near harmony, featuring Russell Varian and his bass viol, till the thunder died away. We hiked from our base camps in Deadman and Cloud canyons to see what the bear saw. Allan Mutty caught the only whale ever seen in Sierra waters. Bob Glassman tore his turquoise pajamas fishing in the girls' swimming hole—for fish. "Dewdrop," a donkey, fell in Ferguson Creek with the sugar, but Russell Varian learned to make cocoa with salt instead of sugar, so it did not matter.

We had only two-bits worth of rain on the second trip. and were able to go into the Kings country where the leader scratched his foot

so he could ride a horse for the rest of the trip. At Rae Lake "Rae," a jenny, was born to "Percilla," thus exploding the grass-belly myth. With the help of a trail crew, a forest ranger, and a parachute, we crossed Glen Pass and camped at Bullfrog Lake. The next day seventeen intrepid mountaineers climbed University Peak, which overlooks the rest of the world. The seventeenth intrepid mountaineer got back to camp just in time to start back to civilization the next day by way of Bubbs Creek and Sphinx Trail. Back at base camp two notable things happened. Bob Hollis shaved and Earl Wallace washed his face. The only complaint of the trip was voiced by Bill Wallace, who said if he caught the leader stealing any more cashew nuts he would throw him into the lake and count the bubbles.

MILTON HILDEBRAND

First Annual Rock Climbing Section Knapsack Trip

The Rock Climbing Section of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club held its first experimental knapsack trip from July 31 to August 14 with the following climbers participating: Kenneth Davis, Jack Riegelhuth, Raffi Bedayan, John U. White, Garniss and Jane Curtis, Mary Jane Sconberg, Renee Godfrey, Edward Koskinen, John Dyer, William A. Horsfall. The party assembled at North Lake, then went over Piute Pass and camped in Humphreys Basin. A hard trip was taken over Glacier Divide via Alpine Pass to Evolution Lake. From there the party crossed Muir Pass to a campsite below the pass, then on to a cache and camp just above Grouse Meadow. From this point a side trip was made to Rambaud Lakes Basin and back. The party then climbed to Dusy Basin and the last campsite before returning to South Lake and the automobiles.

Several new routes of interest to mountaineers were made during the trip. On Mount Humphreys two new routes were made on the west side, one on the face directly below and southwest of the summit, the other up a gully running to a notch to the south of the summit. The ridge from "Ex-Wallace," a 13,701-foot peak, to Mount Darwin was traversed. From Rambaud Lakes Basin a route was made directly up the east face of the highest Devils Crag to the summit. A new route was used on Mount Winchell and the ridge from Mount Winchell to North Palisade over the top of Thunderbolt was completely traversed, a long and difficult traverse.

On the whole the trip was successful and we all look forward to a similar trip next year.

W. KENNETH DAVIS

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